

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 3 and 10-18 as follows:

1. *(Currently amended)* A method of authenticating a shipping transaction, comprising the steps of:

providing a smartcard and a smartcard reader;
acquiring biometric information and shipping information relating to a customer;
encrypting the shipping information using the biometric information, and
storing the encrypted result on the smartcard and in a shipping database;
providing the smartcard to the customer so that the customer ~~may can~~ access the database and change shipping information; and
if an item is shipped to the customer, requesting the customer to supply the biometric information to authorize the transaction.

2. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is a fingerprint.

3. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information acts as a private key (in identity-based encryption).

4. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes the identity of the customer.

5. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a shipping address.

6. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes an alternate shipping address.

7. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping information includes a telephone number or other customer contact information.

8. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the shipping database is remote and accessed through a cell phone, land line, or Internet-connected computer.
9. *(Original)* The method of claim 1, wherein the result is also encrypted using a private key and a company public key.
10. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing identity-based encrypted (IBE) data on the smartcard.
11. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a customer address on the smartcard.
12. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a phone number on the smartcard.
13. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a public key on the smartcard.
14. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a fingerprint on the smartcard.
15. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a private key on the smartcard.
16. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 1, further including the step of storing a company public key.